

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Degree: Master of Science
 Department: Computer Science
 Building 79, Room 102
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 College: Arts and Sciences

The Computer Science Department offers two graduate specializations: Computer Science (CS) and Software Engineering (SE).

Students entering the CS specialization normally have an undergraduate degree in Computer Science but may come from another scientific discipline. A graduate of this specialization is a software and hardware specialist with a deep understanding of the nature of algorithms in terms of expression, development, resource usage and limitations. He/she is prepared to develop software at any level of abstraction, from machine code to distributed processes. He/she is prepared for a career as a programmer or advanced software developer and may consider continuing on to Ph.D. studies.

Students entering the SE specialization may have an undergraduate degree in CS or CIS but may also come from another discipline. A graduate of this specialization is a system specialist, prepared to plan, configure, implement and maintain computing systems. While he/she will have significant programming skills, he/she will focus more on the whole life cycle including communication with users, developing requirements, testing and deploying systems, and managing the whole Software Engineering process. He/she may also be deeply familiar with a specific problem domain (e.g. medical software, chemistry, data acquisition systems, computer games, etc.) and with the software development issues associated with that domain.

Numerous local and regional companies and governmental agencies employ computer science students in cooperative education programs (co-op).

The Department annually awards several scholarships, fellowships, and out-of-state tuition waivers to new and returning students. The department also has limited opportunities for teaching/research assistantships for new and returning students. Contact the department chairperson for information.

In addition to general University requirements, students seeking the M.S. in Computer Science must meet the requirements listed below.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission, applicants must provide a completed University application, three letters of recommendation from individuals who can evaluate your academic ability, and a letter of intent stating the goals of the applicant. Students must satisfy the University-wide graduate admissions requirements, including those for Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. Additionally, international applicants must satisfy the University TOEFL requirement (see the Graduate Admissions and International Student Admission sections of the catalog).

As part of the admissions process, the graduate director will review each student's undergraduate coursework and will exempt the student from diagnostic interviews and counseling if:

- A. Within the last 3 years the student took the Graduate Record Examination Subject Test in Computer Science and scored 730 or better, or
- B. Within the last 3 years the student took an equivalent course covering the exam material and received a grade of B or higher in the following areas: (1) Object Oriented Programming and Discrete Structures, (2) Scripting and Applied Data Structures, and (3) Operating Systems and Networks.

If required, diagnostic interviews will be conducted by a faculty committee to ensure students are prepared for graduate work without necessarily taking a long sequence of undergraduate courses. See the Computer Science Department web site for the current interview information, detailed content, sample questions, and recognized equivalent UWF courses. Depending on the outcome of the interview, students may be required to take preparatory undergraduate courses that do not count toward masters degree requirements.

Non-degree students may be given a tentative degree plan by the graduate director. Upon admission to the program, students may petition the department chairperson to count up to 12 semester hours of graduate level course work taken while enrolled as a non-degree student towards their graduate degree.

Students must meet with the graduate director as soon as possible after admission to develop a plan of studies. The graduate director will construct an initial degree plan and recommend an appropriate sequencing of prerequisites, or additional courses, if needed.

Each specialization requires a total of 32 credits as described below. See also the Masters Degree Requirements section of the catalog for general UWF requirements.

COMPUTER SCIENCE SPECIALIZATION

CDA	6415	Advanced Computer Systems	4
COT	6416	Computational Complexity	4
		6000 level advisor approved elective	3
		5000/6000 level advisor approved electives	15

Choose one:

CIS	6971	Thesis	6
		Course offered as 1-6 sh per semester	
COT	6931	Computer Science Project	6
		(normally 3 sh in two consecutive semesters)	

SOFTWARE ENGINEERING SPECIALIZATION

CEN 6016	Software Engineering Process	4
CEN 6xx3	Software Engineering Practice and Tools	4
	6000 level advisor approved elective	3
	5000/6000 level advisor approved electives	15

Choose one:

CIS 6971	Thesis	6
	Course offered as 1-6 sh per semester	
COT 6931	Computer Science Project	6
	(normally 3 sh in two consecutive semesters)	